(b) whether the Railways have achieved the purpose of acquisition;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether the Ministry has received a memorandum from Eravipuram Railway User's Association; and

(f) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) the land adjacent to Eravipuram railway station was acquired in 1998 at a cost of Rs. 7,37,489/for proposed conversion of the existing Halt station to Flag station.

(b) to (d) Land was acquired considering the expected future requirements of development of this station.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Does not arise.

Abolition of Railway Board

2867. DR. BIPLAB DASGUPTA:
SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to abolish the Railway Board; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) and (b) At present no proposal is under consideration of the Government for abolition of Railway Board.

Averted rail accident at Varakkalpattu

2868. SHRI C. O. POULOSE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an accident of a passenger train was averted at Varakkalpattu in Cuddalore district on 25th June, 2001, by the timely action of the train driver; and

(b) if so, how the services of the driver have been appreciated by Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) Yes, Sir. Train No. 629 Villupuram-Mayiladuturai Passenger left Nellikuppam station at 06.18 hrs. of 25.06.2001. While approaching Varakkalpattu, the train driver, on seeing big stones between the track, stopped the train. The stones were removed by the crew and the train was restarted. The train suffered a detention of five minutes at the site.

(b) The driver of the train has been recommended for an award at Zonal Headquarters level.

Introduction of trains in Kerala

2869. SHRI S. RAMACHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria/norms for laying rail lines and introducing trains in States;

(b) whether Kerala needs expansion and introduction of trains; and

(c) if so, the steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) to (c) Investment planning on the Railways including planning for New Lines, is done in an integrated and need based manner keeping a national perspective in view. Geographical boundaries of a State, *per se*, do not form a criterion for determining Railway investments, especially in a scenario where many Railway projects span across more than one state.

Similarly, decisions regarding introduction of new trains are taken in a need based manner keeping in view the traffic requirement, operational feasibility and availability of resources.

New rail line between Kadur and Chikmagalur

2870. SHRI K. C. KONDAIAH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) when laying of the new rail line between Kadur and Chikmagalur was sanctioned;

(b) if so, the estimated cost of the project;